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THE Livestock and Wool SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LWS-10

BAE

FEBRUARY 1943

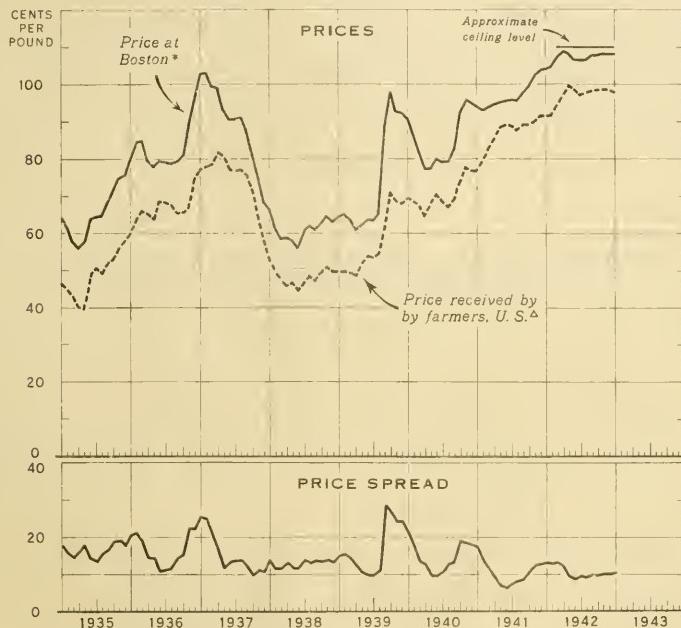
In this issue:
COMPARISON OF U. S. FARM PRICE
AND BOSTON PRICE OF WOOL

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U. S. DEPOSITORY

WOOL, SCOURED BASIS: PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS,
UNITED STATES, PRICE AT BOSTON, AND SPREAD
BETWEEN THESE PRICES, 1935-43



* PRICES OF 10 REPRESENTATIVE CROPS OF TERRITORY AND BRIGHT FLEECE WOOLS WEIGHTED BY 1936-40 AVERAGE PRODUCTION OF EACH CROP.

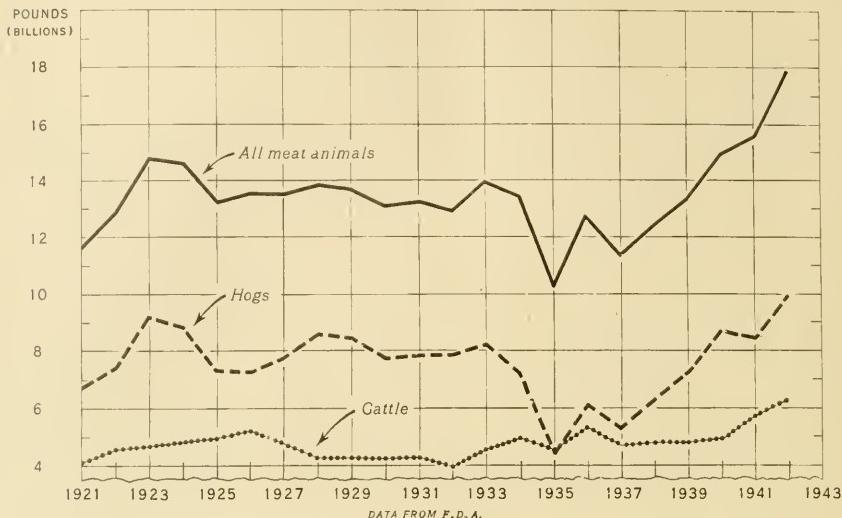
△ LOCAL MARKET PRICES, BY STATES, CONVERTED TO SCOURED BASIS, USING SHRINKAGE ESTIMATES OF TARIFF COMMISSION (FARM STATES) AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOOL MANUFACTURERS (RANGE STATES). PRICES THEN WEIGHTED BY 1936-39 AVERAGE PRODUCTION

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Monthly changes in the average price received by farmers and Boston market prices for wool on a scoured basis are closely related. Reasons for lack of complete correspondence include inherent differences in the basis upon which prices are reported which cannot be completely eliminated, and changes in the actual costs of marketing wool. Wool prices have been quite stable near ceiling levels during recent months, and buyers' operating margins have been below average.

DRESSED WEIGHT OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED UNDER
FEDERAL INSPECTION, UNITED STATES, 1921-42

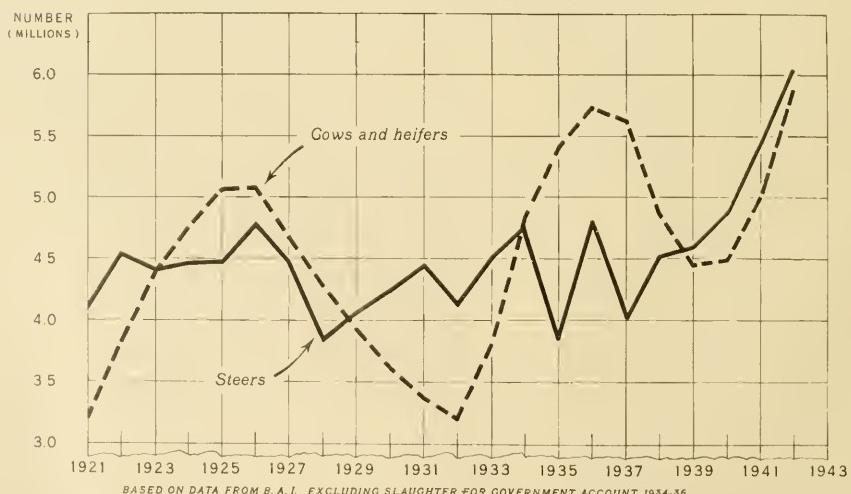


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FIGURE 1

INSPECTED SLAUGHTER OF STEERS, AND COWS
AND HEIFERS, UNITED STATES, 1921-42



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FIGURE 2

THE LIVESTOCK AND WOOL SITUATION

Summary

Livestock numbers on farms in the United States on January 1, 1943 were much the largest on record. Decreases from a year earlier in sheep, horses, and mules were more than offset by large increases in hogs and cattle. In terms of grain-consuming animal units, the January 1 number was 11 percent larger than a year earlier and 21 percent greater than the 1932-41 average.

The weekly rate of hog slaughter has decreased considerably since early December, and it now seems probable that the 1942-43 season's peak in hog marketings was reached in early December. Nevertheless, the number of hogs on farms January 1 was over 13 million head larger than a year earlier, and slaughter supplies during the remainder of the marketing year (through September) are expected to be larger than a year earlier. Trade reports indicate that farm and local slaughter has increased considerably this winter, however, and if this tendency continues, the number of hogs marketed through regular wholesale channels will be correspondingly reduced.

Preliminary indications that cattle numbers would increase sharply during 1942, despite the record large slaughter, were borne out by the January 1 livestock numbers report. With the number of cattle and calves on farms January 1 roughly 3 million head larger than a year earlier, total marketings for slaughter in 1943 probably will exceed the record 1942 slaughter by a substantial margin. Marketings in recent weeks have been running under a year earlier, owing partly to severe weather and to some delay in getting feeder cattle on full feed last fall.

Cold, dry weather during most of January was unfavorable to the development of the early lamb crop in California. But prospects for early

lambs are mostly favorable. Early lambs are reported to be developed well in Arizona, but in the northwestern States, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, the weather has not been favorable to early lambing. Although marketings of sheep and lambs were very large in 1942, numbers on farms on January 1 were only 1.6 million head smaller than a year earlier.

Mill consumption of apparel wool in 1942, totaling approximately 1,075 million pounds (greasy, shorn and pulled basis), was 11 percent larger than in 1941 and was much larger than in any previous year. Consumption averaged 575 million pounds in the 5 years 1935-39. About 540 million pounds of domestic wool were used in 1942. The record consumption was largely for military fabrics. Use of wool for civilian fabrics was sharply curtailed by orders of the War Production Board. Wool consumption is expected to continue at a relatively high level in 1943. Wool prices are close to ceiling levels and have not changed much since last summer.

-- February 18, 1943.

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Hog Prices Advance; Slaughter Reduced.

The upward trend in hog prices which began in late December continued during January and early February, reflecting the strong demand for pork and lard and the smaller run of hogs than was expected earlier in the season. The average price of butcher hogs at Chicago in mid-February was \$15.40, about 65 cents higher than a month earlier and near the peak level reached last October. In mid-February last year the average price was \$12.60. The hog-corn price ratio (based on Chicago prices) was 16.0 for the week ended February 13, compared with 15.3 a year earlier.

Hog slaughter decreased sharply in January, contrary to most expectations. The decrease was due in part to severe winter weather which delayed marketings. Receipts at principal markets in early February were somewhat larger than a year earlier but were still below expectations. The number of hogs slaughtered at federally inspected plants during January totaled 5.4 million head, 20 percent less than in December and 7 percent less than in January last year. For the first 4 months (October-January) of the current hog marketing year, inspected hog slaughter has totaled 6 percent greater than a year earlier. Receipts at interior Iowa and southern Minnesota points during this period were about 7 percent smaller than a year earlier.

As shown by table 1, average live weights of hogs this season have been running substantially heavier than a year earlier and much above average. A part of the increase, but by no means the major part, has been due to the larger proportion of packing sows in total marketings this fall and winter than a year earlier.

Table 1.— Average weight per hog of packer and shipper purchases at seven important markets, and number of packing sows as percentage of all hogs, specified periods 1/

| Month | All hogs | | | Barrows and gilts | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------|---------|---|---------|---------|
| | Average | | Average | | | |
| | 1935-36 | | 1941-42 | | 1935-36 | |
| | to 1940-41: | | 1942-43 | | 1941-42 | |
| | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds |
| October ...: | 230 | 239 | 247 | 209 | 218 | 221 |
| November ...: | 226 | 236 | 246 | 213 | 222 | 230 |
| December ...: | 230 | 243 | 250 | 220 | 229 | 235 |
| January ...: | 236 | 243 | 255 | 227 | 232 | 241 |
| February ...: | 237 | 243 | | 230 | 232 | |
| March: | 242 | 242 | | 234 | 233 | |
| April: | 241 | 244 | | 233 | 235 | |
| May: | 243 | 246 | | 232 | 237 | |
| June: | 254 | 256 | | 230 | 237 | |
| July: | 264 | 272 | | 226 | 235 | |
| August: | 261 | 278 | | 221 | 234 | |
| September :: | 245 | 263 | | 213 | 222 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Packing sows | | | Packing sows as percentage of all hogs | | |
| | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| October ...: | 357 | 375 | 382 | 15 | 14 | 16 |
| November ...: | 365 | 393 | 405 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| December ...: | 406 | 422 | 423 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| January ...: | 422 | 429 | 442 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| February ...: | 419 | 425 | | 4 | 6 | |
| March: | 412 | 415 | | 4 | 5 | |
| April: | 403 | 407 | | 4 | 5 | |
| May: | 382 | 392 | | 7 | 6 | |
| June: | 357 | 377 | | 19 | 13 | |
| July: | 342 | 366 | | 33 | 28 | |
| August: | 340 | 367 | | 34 | 33 | |
| September ..: | 346 | 369 | | 24 | 28 | |

1/ Chicago, St. Louis National Stock Yards, Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, So. St. Joseph, So. St. Paul.

Lard Reservation Order Effective
February 14

A lard reservation order designed to provide approximately 1 billion pounds of lard in 1943 to meet war requirements was announced by the Department of Agriculture on February 13. The directive, Food Distribution Order No. 20, requires federally inspected packers to set aside 50 percent of their weekly lard production beginning February 14 for purchase by the Food Distribution Administration.

The order does not affect lard produced in noninspected plants which is expected to amount to at least 800 million pounds. This together with one-half of the inspected lard will total about 1,850 million pounds which is about the same amount as was consumed by civilians in 1942.

Purchases of Pork and Lard Reduced in January;
Stocks Increase Seasonally

Purchases of pork and lard by the Department of Agriculture were reduced in January. Purchases for the month totaled about 180 million pounds of pork and 32 million pounds of lard. These figures compare with 265 million pounds of pork and 54 million pounds of lard purchased in December. Pork purchases in January 1942 totaled 107 million pounds; lard amounted to 67 million.

Storage stocks of both pork and lard increased seasonally during January. The net in-storage movement of pork during the month amounted to about 100 million pounds, raising stocks on February 1 to 591 million pounds. This quantity was not greatly different from a year earlier and was only slightly smaller than the 1938-42 February 1 average.

The net in-storage movement of lard and rendered pork fat during January totaled 21 million pounds. The February 1 stocks of 112 million pounds were only about half as large as those of a year earlier and were 59 percent of the 1938-42 February 1 average.

Cattle Prices Advance in January
and Early February; Slaughter Down

Prices of all grades of slaughter cattle have advanced since early January and are now running somewhat higher than was indicated on the basis of the revised ceiling prices for beef which became effective December 16. The advance has been most pronounced for the lower grades of slaughter cattle, and this has had a strengthening effect upon feeder cattle prices. The average price of Good grade beef steers at Chicago for the week ended February 13 was \$15.55, about 65 cents higher than a month earlier and \$3.15 higher than in the corresponding week last year. The average price of feeder steers (all weights and grades) at Kansas City in mid-February was \$13.30, the highest level reached in recent years.

Marketings of both cattle and calves were reduced sharply in January. Cattle slaughter under Federal inspection for the month totaled 928,000 head, 6 percent less than in December and 12 percent less than in January last year. Inspected calf slaughter of 340,000 head was 23 percent smaller than a year earlier and the smallest January total since 1922. A part of the January decrease in cattle slaughter was due to reduced marketings of grain-fed cattle.

Lamb Prices Weaken in Late January; Slaughter Continues Large

Lamb prices weakened a little in late January but continued above the highest level reached in 1942. The average price of Good and Choice grade slaughter lambs at Chicago in mid-February was \$15.85, compared with \$16.10 the third week in January and \$12.00 in the corresponding week of 1942. Sheep prices advanced to the highest level since 1929 in early February. The average price of Good and Choice grade slaughter ewes at Chicago in early February was about \$8.60, compared with \$6.30 a year earlier.

The weekly rate of sheep and lamb slaughter has decreased since December but continues larger than a year earlier. Inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs in January totaled 1.7 million head, 21 percent below December but 7 percent above a year earlier. It was the largest January total on record.

Meat Production in 1942 Largest on Record

Meat production under Federal inspection in 1942 amounted to nearly 15.5 billion pounds, compared with the previous record of 13.4 billion pounds in 1941. Total dressed weight of meat animals slaughtered under Federal inspection in 1942 was 15 percent above 1941 and 32 percent larger than the 1937-41 average. Hog slaughter accounted for most of the increase but slaughter of all classes of meat animals (hogs, cattle and sheep) was at record levels. The large production of pork reflected the larger production per hog as well as the larger number slaughtered. Although the average weight of inspected hogs slaughtered was over 4 pounds above the previous record in 1941, lard production per animal was slightly smaller. The increased use of fat cuts as pork instead of rendering into lard, as well as leaving more fat on pork which under normal conditions would be trimmed off, has resulted in a larger production of pork and a smaller production of lard per 100 pounds of live weight. The average live weight of inspected cattle slaughtered was 954 pounds, 7 pounds lighter than in 1941 but heavier than any other year since 1933. Final estimates for total meat production, including that produced in noninspected plants and on farms, are not yet available but it probably amounted to about 22 billion pounds. This would compare with 19.5 billion pounds in 1941 and a 1943 goal of 25.7 billion pounds.

Table 2.- Production of meats and lard under Federal inspection,
1942 with comparisons

| Item | 1937-41 | 1941 | 1942 | 1942 as a percentage of | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| | average | | | 1941 | 1937-41 | |
| | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. | Mil. lb. |
| Beef | 5,002 | 5,739 | 6,347 | 111 | | 127 |
| Veal | 597 | 599 | 667 | 111 | | 112 |
| Pork | 5,530 | 6,345 | 7,562 | 119 | | 137 |
| Lamb and mutton .. | 710 | 750 | 880 | 117 | | 124 |
| Total meat :: | 11,839 | 13,433 | 15,456 | 115 | | 131 |
| Lard 1/ | 1,224 | 1,526 | 1,724 | 113 | | 141 |

1/ Includes rendered pork fat.

NOTE: A mimeographed publication of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics entitled "Factors Associated with Annual and Seasonal Changes in the Production of Pork and Lard" is now available. This article deals with the factors which affect average weights of hogs marketed and yields of pork and lard per 100 pounds live weight, which in turn influence the total production of pork and lard. Copies of this publication may be obtained upon request to the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS ON FARMS JANUARY 1

The number of livestock on farms January 1, 1943, was a new all-time record. In terms of grain-consuming animal units the number was 11 percent greater than a year earlier and 21 percent greater than the 1932-41 average. Most of this increase was accounted for by hogs, although cattle numbers also showed a marked increase over previous years.

The number of hogs on farms at the beginning of 1943 totaled 73.7 million head, 13.3 million more than a year earlier and much the largest number on record. The increase was greatest for pigs under 6 months of age -- pigs from the record large 1942 fall crop -- and bred sows and gilts, although the number of other hogs over 6 months also was larger than a year earlier.

Cattle numbers have increased nearly 13 million head since 1938, with milk cows accounting for about 2.5 million head of the total increase. The number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches at the beginning of 1943 totaled 78.2 million head compared with the two previous high totals of 75.2 million in 1942 and 74.4 in 1941.

The number of all sheep declined somewhat in 1942 after increasing steadily during the preceding 5 years. The estimated number of sheep on January 1, including sheep and lambs on feed, was 55.1 million head, 1.6 million head less than a year earlier. Heavy marketings of mature sheep and of ewe lambs during the year accounted for most of this decrease.

The downward trend in the number of work stock on farms which has been under way for a number of years continued in 1942. The number of horses and mules on January 1, 1943 totaled 13.4 million head, about 300,000 less than a year earlier and only about half as many as the peak number on farms in 1918.

Table 3.- Livestock on farms in the United States, January 1, 1930-43

| Year | Horses | | Milk | | Hogs | | Chickens | | Grain-consuming animal units | |
|---------|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|----------|-------|------------------------------|-----------|
| | and mules | All cattle | cows | All sheep | head | head | head | head | head | 1/ |
| 1930 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 1931 | head | head | head | head | head | head | head | head | head | Thousands |
| 1930 | 19,124 | 61,003 | 23,032 | 51,565 | 55,705 | 468,491 | | | | 135,807 |
| 1931 | 18,468 | 63,030 | 23,820 | 53,233 | 54,835 | 449,743 | | | | 134,945 |
| 1932 | 17,812 | 65,801 | 24,896 | 53,902 | 59,701 | 436,815 | | | | 139,468 |
| 1933 | 17,337 | 70,280 | 25,936 | 53,054 | 62,127 | 444,523 | | | | 144,492 |
| 1934 | 16,997 | 74,369 | 26,981 | 53,503 | 58,621 | 433,937 | | | | 143,169 |
| 1935 | 16,683 | 68,846 | 26,082 | 51,808 | 39,066 | 389,958 | | | | 120,518 |
| 1936 | 16,226 | 67,847 | 25,196 | 51,087 | 42,975 | 403,446 | | | | 123,032 |
| 1937 | 15,802 | 66,098 | 24,649 | 51,019 | 43,083 | 423,921 | | | | 122,402 |
| 1938 | 15,245 | 65,249 | 24,466 | 51,210 | 44,525 | 389,624 | | | | 120,963 |
| 1939 | 14,792 | 66,029 | 24,600 | 51,595 | 50,012 | 418,591 | | | | 127,003 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1940 | 14,481 | 68,197 | 24,926 | 52,399 | 61,115 | 438,288 | | | | 128,492 |
| 1941 | 14,136 | 71,461 | 25,478 | 54,283 | 54,256 | 422,909 | | | | 133,449 |
| 1942 | 13,720 | 75,162 | 26,398 | 56,735 | 60,377 | 474,910 | | | | 143,077 |
| 1943 2/ | 13,390 | 78,170 | 26,946 | 55,089 | 73,660 | 540,107 | | | | 158,927 |

1/ Weights used: Horses and mules 1.14, milk cows 1.00, other cattle 0.51, hogs 0.87, sheep 0.04, chickens 0.045.

2/ Preliminary.

OUTLOOK - HOGS

BACKGROUND. - Hog production in 1943 is expected to be substantially larger than the record 1942 production. In mid-October farmers were asked to increase their 1943 spring farrowings by 10 percent but because of the increasing demand for hog products, 1943 hog goals were revised upward in late November and an increase of 15 percent over the 1942 record pig crop was requested. At the same time a program designed to assure farmers a continued high price for hogs through September 1944 was announced. Attainment of the 1943 goals has been greatly facilitated by the favorable hog-corn price ratio during the past year as well as the large supply of feed grains, especially corn, now available to hog producers. The goal for hog slaughter this year calls for a slaughter of about 100 million hogs, compared with an estimated slaughter of about 80 million in 1942 and a 1936-40 average of 67 million. Farmers have also been asked to increase the average weight of hogs slaughtered at least 10 pounds.

The weekly rate of hog slaughter has decreased considerably since early December, and it now seems probable that the 1942-43 season's peak in hog marketings was reached in early December. The number of hogs on farms January 1 was about 13 million head larger than a year earlier, and slaughter supplies of hogs during the remainder of the marketing year (through September) are expected to be larger than in corresponding months of 1942. Trade reports indicate that farm and local slaughter has been stepped up sharply this winter, however, and if this tendency continues, the number of hogs marketed for slaughter through regular wholesale channels will be correspondingly reduced.

Other important points in the outlook for hogs given in the January issue of this report are as follows:

- (1) The 1942 pig crop totaled nearly 105 million head, 24 percent larger than the 1941 crop and 44 percent above the 1931-40 average. The fall crop totaled 43.7 million head, 23 percent larger than the previous record fall crop in 1941 and 60 percent above the 1931-40 average.
- (2) On the basis of breeding intentions reported by farmers on December 1, the number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1943 is indicated to be over 12 million head, 24 percent larger than a year earlier and 59 percent above the 1931-40 average. If the number of pigs saved per litter is about average, the 1943 spring crop would total 75 million. This would be the largest spring crop on record and would exceed the 1931-40 average pig crop, spring and fall combined. The largest increase in farrowings is indicated in the North Central States, particularly in the western Corn Belt where over half of the total increase will occur.
- (3) If the estimated pig crop materializes, hog slaughter under Federal inspection in 1943 may total over 70 million head and the 1943 goal for total hog slaughter of 100 million head probably will be reached. Inspected slaughter in 1942 totaled 53.9 million head and total slaughter probably was about 80 million head. The large fall pig crop will be marketed in greatest volume in late spring and summer. It seems probable that marketings during this period (May-September) will be considerably larger than a year earlier. If the indicated 75 million spring pig crop is realized, slaughter of hogs next fall and winter will be exceptionally large.
- (4) The Office of Price Administration established temporary ceiling prices on corn at local and central markets on January 13. At the same time it announced that, "Within the next 60 days, OPA will issue a permanent regulation on corn, which will continue the levels frozen by today's action and will be based upon \$1.00 a bushel for number 2 yellow corn in Chicago." With this ceiling on corn prices and the announced support price of \$13.25 for Good and Choice grade butcher hogs at Chicago weighing 240 to 270 pounds, the hog-corn price ratio, Chicago basis, would not fall below a level of about 13.0.
- (5) Demand for hog products will continue unusually strong in 1943. Requirements for the military, civilians, and lend-lease will continue to support hog prices near the maximums permitted by price ceilings on hog products. Hog prices in 1943 will probably average above those received in 1942.

OUTLOOK - CATTLE

BACKGROUND. - Cattle and calf slaughter in 1942 was the largest on record, but numbers on farms at the beginning of 1943 were 3 million head larger than in any previous year. The wartime need for meats was great and, considering the probable supply of cattle, the 1943 slaughter goal for cattle and calves was set at a little over 30 million head. In May 1942 wholesale beef price ceilings were established at the highest March prices. In December, wholesale price ceilings were changed to a specific dollars and cents basis with regional and grade differentials. The strong demand for beef has held live cattle prices near the highest levels permitted by beef ceilings.

There has been little change in the outlook for cattle during the past month. Preliminary indications that cattle numbers increased sharply during 1942, despite a record large slaughter, were borne out by the January 1 livestock numbers report issued recently by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. With total cattle numbers roughly 3 million head larger than a year earlier, total marketings for slaughter in 1943 probably will exceed the record 1942 slaughter by a substantial margin. Marketings in recent weeks have been running under a year earlier, due partly to severe winter weather and to some delay in getting feeder cattle on full feed last fall. Despite the late start, the number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt on January 1 was 8 percent larger than a year earlier; these cattle will be marketed in considerable volume during the spring and summer. Slaughter supplies of cattle from the Range States will depend to a considerable extent on the development of the feed situation in that area.

Slaughter Supplies of Veal, Calves MayIncrease in 1943

Marketings of calves for slaughter during the past year did not keep pace with the sharp increase in cattle slaughter. This was due in part to the tendency to hold back calves for the further building up of dairy herds. With cattle numbers now at a record level, the tendency to hold back calves for herd building may not be as great as in other years, and the number of calves marketed for slaughter may increase. As in the case of other livestock, the number of calves going to slaughter through regular commercial channels may be influenced by the number slaughtered locally and on farms.

OUTLOOK - SHEEP

BACKGROUND. - The number of sheep on farms at the beginning of 1942 was the largest on record but because of unfavorable weather during lambing time, the lamb crop was a little smaller than the 1941 crop. Marketings of sheep and lambs increased sharply during the past fall and winter because many ewes and ewe lambs which would ordinarily be kept in breeding flocks, were slaughtered.

Sheep and lamb slaughter since July has been by far the largest on record. Despite this large slaughter, lamb prices in recent months have been maintained at the highest level reached in over 10 years. Ceiling prices for lamb were established in August 1942.

Early Lamb Crop Prospects Less Favorable Than a Year Earlier

Cold, dry weather during most of January retarded feed growth and was unfavorable to the development of the early lamb crop in California. This situation was improved by rains in late January, and prospects for early lambs are mostly favorable. Contracting for delivery of early lambs -- mostly to West Coast slaughterers -- is under way at prices ranging between \$13 and \$14 per 100 pounds.

Early lambs are reported to be developing well in Arizona, but in the northwestern States -- Idaho, Washington, and Oregon -- the weather has not been favorable for early lambing.

Ordinarily a considerable number of early lambs are shipped to eastern markets around the Easter season. This year, because of the exceptionally strong demand for meat on the West Coast, this eastern movement probably will be greatly reduced.

Other features of the outlook for sheep and lambs discussed in earlier issues of this report include:

(1) Marketings of mature sheep and ewe lambs were exceptionally large during 1942, and sheep numbers were reduced. The number on farms and ranches at the beginning of 1943, now estimated at 55 million head, is not greatly smaller than in most recent years, however.

(2) The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market on January 1 totaled 6.8 million head, 2 percent less than the record number a year earlier. Slaughter supplies will consist chiefly of fed lambs through April and early May.

(3) Because of the exceptionally strong wartime demand for meats, sheep and lamb prices are expected to continue at or near recent high levels throughout 1943.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Prices Firm for Domestic Wools;
Offerings Small in Past Month

Offerings and sales of domestic wools were small in the past month. Prices were firm and unchanged. Unsold stocks of 1942 clip wools are small and interest is shifting to the new clip, with early shearing due to begin soon in Arizona and California. There has been little preshearing contracting reported thus far. Quoted prices for fine staple combing territory wool remained unchanged at \$1.18-\$1.20 a pound (secured basis) through the second week of February, compared with \$1.16 a pound a year earlier. Quoted prices on 3/8 blood combing fleece wools were unchanged at 53 cents a pound (grease basis) compared with 51.5 cents in February 1942. Quoted prices at Boston have not changed much since last summer. Prices of most wools are close to ceiling levels.

There was a good demand for foreign wools at Boston in the past month. Medium grade South American wools were purchased to fill new Army orders for melton and blankets, and Australian fine wools were in demand after orders were awarded for Army socks and underwear. Prices of these wools strengthened in the early part of February.

A fourth and fifth series of auctions of damaged Australian wools were held for account of the Defense Supplies Corporation during the past month. About 3.7 million pounds (12,494 bales) were offered on January 22 and 1.2 million pounds (3,760 bales) on February 5. All offerings were sold, most of them on the first bid. Prices were somewhat higher than at the last previous sale on January 5, probably as a result of the increased demand for spot wools. Most greasy wools were sold at full ceiling levels. Scoured and carbonized wools sold at prices averaging about 4 percent below ceilings.

Mill Consumption of Apparel Wool
Sets New Record in 1942

Mill consumption of apparel wool 1/ in 1942, totaled approximately 1,075 million pounds (greasy shorn and pulled basis), 11 percent larger than in 1941 and much larger than in any previous year. Consumption averaged 575 million pounds in the 5 years 1935-39. About 540 million pounds of domestic wool were used in 1942. Use of domestic wool increased sharply in the final quarter of the year after orders were placed for Army fabrics which called for the use of 100 percent domestic wools. The record consumption in 1942 was largely for military fabrics. Use of wool for civilian fabrics was sharply curtailed by orders of the War Production Board. Mill consumption of apparel wool averaged 11.4 million pounds a week (scoured basis) in December, only slightly below the record July average of 11.5 million pounds. The average for the year was 11 million pounds a week.

The increased use of apparel wool in 1942 was more than offset by the decline in consumption of carpet wool 2/ which is not used extensively in military fabrics. Consumption of carpet wool totaled 61 million pounds (grease basis) in 1942 compared with 199 million pounds in 1941 and a 5-year (1935-39) average of 137 million pounds. Mill consumption of apparel and carpet wool combined totaled approximately 1,136 million pounds (greasy, shorn and pulled basis) in 1942 compared with 1,166 million pounds in 1941.

Mill consumption of apparel wool in coming months may be limited by increased shortages of skilled labor, but in view of the large military requirements for wool fabrics and increased demands for lend-lease materials, consumption is expected to continue at a relatively high level in 1943. Consumption for civilian fabrics in the first half of 1943 will be somewhat larger than in the latter 6 months of 1942 if mills make full use of civilian quotas for the new period which began February 1. Because of restrictions on civilian use, consumption of carpet wool probably will continue at a low level in 1943. Many carpet mills have converted to the manufacture of blankets for the armed forces, or of cotton duck and other military fabrics.

1/ Domestic wool and all duty-paid foreign wool.

2/ Duty free foreign wool, used chiefly in floor coverings and press cloth.

FEBRUARY 1943

WEEK 14 -

Activity Shifts from Worsted to Woolen Manufactures in 1942

In the early part of the defense program a large part of Army orders for wool fabrics was for worsted materials. Production of worsted fabrics for civilian use was also at a relatively high level from June 1940 through December 1941. As a result, activity in that period was much greater in the worsted section than in the woolen section of the wool manufacturing industry. In 1941 active worsted spindle hours were 13 percent greater than woolen spindle hours, although worsted spindle hours had averaged 5 percent less than woolen spindle hours in the 5 years 1935-39.

In 1942 there was a marked shift to the woolen system of manufacture. Activity of worsted spindles declined sharply in the first quarter of the year while activity of woolen spindles increased. Active woolen spindle hours in 1942 were 8 percent greater than worsted spindle hours. The increased activity in the woolen section was due in large part to increased Army orders for woolen materials and to increased emphasis on blended fabrics for civilian use. The woolen system of manufacture is best adapted to the use of reused and reworked wools and other textile fibers in combination with wool and was in a position to put the blending provisions of the wool conservation order into immediate operation.

Table 4.- Weekly average spindle hours on the woolen and worsted systems of manufacture, 1935-42.

| Year | Weekly average spindle hours | |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------|
| | Worsted | Woolen 1/ |
| | 1,000 hours | 1,000 hours |
| 1935 | 81,760 | 90,290 |
| 1936 | 75,070 | 89,420 |
| 1937 | 72,240 | 80,470 |
| 1938 | 58,277 | 56,344 |
| 1939 | 83,544 | 71,595 |
| Average | | |
| 1935-39 | 74,178 | 77,623 |
| 1940 | 77,183 | 74,083 |
| 1941 | 120,052 | 106,350 |
| 1942 | 114,025 | 122,883 |

Compiled from Bureau of the Census, wool machinery activity reports.

1/ Including woolen spindles in carpet and rug mills.

COMPARISON OF LOCAL MARKET AND BOSTON PRICES FOR DOMESTIC WOOL

Questions frequently arise regarding the relationship between local market prices and Boston market prices for domestic wool. Direct comparison of the two price series usually is not satisfactory because of the lack of comparability of the price data. Local market prices are reported on a grease basis, whereas Boston prices are quoted on a scoured basis. Practically

all wool sold at Boston is "in the grease" or unwashed condition. But because of the wide variability of clean wool yields, sales generally are made and prices quoted on the basis of the estimated amount of clean wool in each lot sold. A further lack of comparability arises from the fact that the price received by farmers is an average of prices received for ungraded wool of all descriptions. Boston prices, on the other hand, represent transactions based on well defined grades.

To adjust so far as possible for these differences, two new price series have been constructed: (1) A scoured equivalent of the United States average price received by farmers at local markets, and (2) a weighted average price of 10 representative grades of wool at Boston (scoured basis).

In the case of local market prices, the "grease basis" price reported for each region or State was divided by the estimated average clean yield of wool for that State to obtain a scoured equivalent price per pound. The scoured equivalent price for each region or State was then weighted by the estimated percentage that the 1935-39 average production of wool in each State is of the United States total production on a scoured basis.

To obtain a composite Boston market price that can be compared with the average price received by farmers, price quotations of 10 representative grades of wool (scoured basis) were averaged, using estimates of the 1936-40 average production of each grade as weights.

The steps involved in calculating these two price series are shown for 1 month in tables 5 and 6 below. The complete series of prices and the spread between them for the period beginning January 1935 are shown in table 5 and are presented graphically in the chart on the cover page. Because of gradual changes in the grade and quality composition of the domestic wool clip over a long period of years, it is undesirable to calculate these series of prices for years prior to 1935 without taking these changes in quality into consideration. This has not been practicable on the basis of information now available.

Table 5.- Calculation of scoured equivalent of United States average price per pound received by farmers for wool, April 15, 1942

| Region or State | Reported | Clean wool | Scoured | State or |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| | mid-month local market price | yield 1/ | equivalent price | region weighting factor 2/ Percent |
| | Cents | Percent | Cents | Percent |
| New England | 42.5 | 55 | 77.3 | 0.2 |
| Middle Atlantic 3/ | 43.0 | 49 | 87.8 | 1.8 |
| Ohio | 43 | 47 | 91.5 | 5.7 |
| Indiana | 43 | 52 | 82.7 | 1.8 |
| Illinois | 41 | 51 | 80.4 | 1.8 |
| Michigan | 33 | 48 | 89.6 | 2.6 |
| Wisconsin | 41 | 52 | 78.8 | 1.2 |
| Minnesota | 40 | 49 | 81.6 | 2.5 |
| Iowa | 41 | 50 | 82.0 | 3.2 |
| Missouri | 41 | 53 | 77.4 | 3.2 |
| North Dakota | 38 | 45 | 84.4 | 1.9 |
| South Dakota | 39 | 77 | 105.4 | 2.4 |
| Nebraska | 38 | 40 | 95.0 | 0.8 |
| Kansas | 37 | 40 | 92.5 | 1.0 |
| South Atlantic 4/ | 41.2 | 57 | 77.5 | 2.1 |
| East South Central 5/ | 43.2 | 57 | 75.8 | 2.7 |
| Arkansas | 39 | 57 | 68.4 | 0.1 |
| Louisiana | 34 | 57 | 59.6 | 0.3 |
| Oklahoma | 33 | 37 | 89.2 | 0.5 |
| Texas | 39 | 40 | 97.5 | 19.6 |
| Montana | 39 | 37 | 105.4 | 7.0 |
| Idaho | 39 | 33 | 102.6 | 4.7 |
| Wyoming | 37 | 34 | 108.8 | 7.0 |
| Colorado | 39 | 37 | 105.4 | 3.3 |
| New Mexico | 34 | 33 | 103.0 | 3.5 |
| Arizona | 35 | 36 | 97.2 | 1.2 |
| Utah | 38 | 35 | 108.6 | 4.7 |
| Nevada | 37 | 35 | 105.7 | 1.5 |
| Washington | 38 | 33 | 115.2 | 1.3 |
| Oregon | 39 | 34 | 114.7 | 3.8 |
| California | 40 | 40 | 100.0 | 6.6 |
| United States | 39.2 | 95.8 | 100.0 | - |

1/ Yields for the farm States are from the report of the United States Tariff Commission - United States Wools, Production by regions and by grades, March 10, 1942. Yields for the Range States are from the Bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, 1941. For the Border States, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota, and for Missouri the yield is that reported by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers for 1941. For North Dakota the yield is from the report of the Tariff Commission.

2/ Percentage 1935-39 average production is of United States total (scoured basis).

3/ New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

4/ Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida.

5/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Table 6.- Calculation of weighted average price per pound
of wool at Boston, scoured basis, April 1942

| Item | | Weight | Reported price |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|-------------------|
| | | 1/ | 2/ |
| | | Percent | Dollars |
| Territory wools | | | |
| Fine French combing | : | 41.1 | 1.173 |
| 1/2 blood French combing | : | 13.5 | 1.100 |
| 3/8 blood combing | : | 9.7 | 1.043 |
| 1/4 blood combing | : | 3.5 | .965 |
| Low 1/4 blood | : | 1.1 | .912 |
| | : | | |
| Bright fleece wools | | | |
| Fine delaine | : | 3.0 | 1.199 |
| 1/2 blood combing | : | 2.3 | 1.113 |
| 3/8 blood combing | : | 12.3 | 1.002 |
| 1/4 blood combing | : | 12.0 | .934 |
| Low 1/4 blood | : | 1.5 | .389 |
| | : | | |
| Weighted average price ..: | | --- | 1.086 |
| | : | | |

1/ Percentage 1936-40 average production for each grade is of United States total production. Derived from data published by the United States Tariff Commission, March 10, 1942.

2/ Compiled from market news reports of the Food Distribution Administration.

Relationship Between Local and Terminal Market Prices for Wool

As shown by the cover-page chart, monthly changes in the average price received by farmers and the average Boston price for wool have been closely related throughout the past 8 years, although for short periods there have been rather wide fluctuations in the spread between the two price series. On the average this spread amounts to about 14 cents per pound (scoured basis), but in 1937 it ranged from a high of 26 cents in January to a low of 9 cents in October. Reasons for this lack of complete correspondence between fluctuations in local market and Boston prices for wool may be listed under two headings.

(1) Inherent statistical differences in the price series which cannot be completely eliminated:- These include changes in the proportions of the different grades of wool sold at local markets from month to month, which in turn influence the average of such prices. For example, fall sales of short wools in Texas and California tend to lower the United States average price at that time of year. "Off season" sales of inferior quality wool and "peak season" sales of superior quality wools also tend to influence the reported average price received by growers. As shown by the data in table 7, about four-fifths of the domestic wool clip moves to market in the 5 months, May through September. The relatively small quantities of wool sold at local

markets during the other 7 months of the year frequently are not representative of the quality and value of the total clip, and may not correspond directly to sales at Boston of wool purchased earlier in the season by dealers.

Table 7.- Percentage monthly receipts of domestic wool at Boston are of the annual total, 1930-39 average

| Month | Percent | Month | Percent |
|-----------|---------|------------|---------|
| Jan. | 2.8 | July | 27 |
| Feb. | 2 | Aug. | 15 |
| Mar. | 2 | Sept. | 7 |
| Apr. | 4 | Oct. | 5 |
| May | 9 | Nov. | 4 |
| June | 20 | Dec. | 3 |

Lack of strict comparability between the weighted average prices in the country and at Boston also results from the fact that it has been necessary to use fixed weights (1936-40 average production by grades) in calculating the average Boston price. This procedure takes no account of the fact that the proportion of the different grades of wool sold may vary greatly from month to month.

(2) Changes in marketing costs, which make up the margin between the price received by growers and the central market price:- Some of the costs of marketing wool remain relatively constant over time. They include freight and warehousing and grading charges. Probably the most flexible item in the cost of marketing wool is the profit margin of local buyers and dealers. With wool prices remaining relatively stable during the past year as a result of the strong wartime demand and price ceilings, much of the risk element in wool prices has been removed. This explains, in part at least, the relatively narrow spread between local market and Boston prices that has prevailed during recent months.

Relation of Wool Prices to Boston Ceilings

Maximum prices for domestic shorn wool were first established by the Office of Price Administration in December 1941 at the highest prices which prevailed during the period October 1-December 6, 1941. Later, following the enactment of the Emergency Price Control Act in January 1942, this base period was changed to include prices on December 15, 1941, one of the minimum ceiling levels specified in the Act. In late February 1942, specific dollar-and-cents ceiling prices for wool were established by the Office of Price Administration under Maximum Price Regulation No. 106. This regulation provided a schedule of maximum prices which could be charged for all of the several grades and staple lengths of wool, clean basis, at Boston. Those descriptions can be matched quite closely with the several grades of wool for which market price quotations are currently available. On the basis of the maximum prices shown in table 8 below it is estimated that the average ceiling price for wool at Boston, comparable with the average Boston price presented in this article, is about \$1.10 per pound, scoured basis.

Table 8.- Calculated weighted average ceiling price per pound
of domestic wool, scoured basis, at Boston 1/

| Items | Weights 2/ | | Approximate ceiling prices | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------------|------|-----------------|
| | | | Average to Good Cents | | Choice Cents |
| Territory wools | : | : | : | : | |
| Fine French combing | 41.1 | : | 1.13 - 1.20 | | 1.16 - 1.23 |
| 1/2 blood French combing | 13.5 | : | 1.06 - 1.11 | | 1.09 - 1.14 |
| 3/8 blood combing | 9.7 | : | 1.01 - 1.04 | | 1.06 - 1.09 |
| 1/4 blood combing | 3.5 | : | .91 - .96 | | .96 - 1.01 |
| Low 1/4 blood combing | 1.1 | : | .88 - .92 | | .96 - 1.00 |
| | : | : | : | : | |
| Bright fleece wools | : | : | : | : | |
| Fine delaine | 3.0 | : | 1.18 - 1.20 | | 1.21 - 1.23 |
| 1/2 blood combing | 2.3 | : | 1.09 - 1.15 | | 1.12 - 1.18 |
| 3/8 blood combing | 12.3 | : | 1.01 - 1.04 | | 1.06 - 1.09 |
| 1/4 blood combing | 12.0 | : | .91 - .96 | | .96 - 1.01 |
| Low 1/4 blood combing | 1.5 | : | .88 - .92 | | .96 - 1.00 |
| Weighted average range ... | 100.0 | : | 1.054 - 1.107 | | 1.093 - 1.146 |
| Average of range | --- | : | | 1.10 | |

1/ Based on maximum prices for domestic shorn wool under Office of Price Administration Maximum Price Regulation 106. The range in prices shown covers the several staple lengths of wool listed. The complete schedule of maximum prices for domestic shorn wool was published in The Wool Situation, March 1942.

2/ Based on approximate production by grades, 1936-40, Report of United States Tariff Commission.

In the statement of considerations which accompanied Maximum Price Regulation No. 106, it was stated that the schedule of maximum prices at Boston was calculated so as to reflect an average price to growers of at least 37.1 cents per pound (grease basis), the average price received by farmers on December 15, 1941. It appears, however, that the Boston ceilings are high enough to reflect a price somewhat above this level, since the spread between the weighted average ceiling price at Boston (110 cents) and the scoured equivalent of the December 1941 local market price (91 cents) is about 19 cents, which is somewhat greater than the spread in most months of the past 8 years. In addition, the average local market price for wool has remained consistently between 39 and 40 cents per pound (grease basis) since April 1942.

Table 9.—Wool, scoured basis: Price received by farmers, United States, wholesale price at Boston, and spread between these prices, 1935-43

11 Prices of 10 representative grades of territory and bright fleece wools weighted by 1936-40 average production of each grade. See table 6 for calculation.

Local market prices by states converted to a scoured basis 1

² Local mercantile prices by states converted to a secured basis using surrogate exchange rates.

Livestock: Marketings and slaughter statistics, by species,
January 1943, with comparisons

| Item | Unit | Annual totals | | | 1942 | 1943 |
|---|------------|---------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| | | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | Jan. | Dec. |
| Cattle and calves - | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Number slaughtered under Federal inspection: | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Steers | :Thous. | 4,866 | 5,459 | 6,019 | 524 | 406 |
| Cows and heifers | " | 4,481 | 4,992 | 5,854 | 498 | 544 |
| All cattle | " | 9,756 | 10,946 | 12,347 | 1,057 | 932 |
| Percentage cows and heifers are of total cattle | : Pct. | 45.9 | 45.6 | 47.4 | 47.1 | 55.3 |
| Calves | :Thous. | 5,359 | 5,461 | 5,760 | 440 | 476 |
| Average live weight: | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Cattle | : Lb. | 940 | 961 | 954 | 978 | 956 |
| Calves | " | 191 | 196 | 208 | 196 | 206 |
| Total dressed weight: | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Cattle | : Mil. lb. | 4,971 | 5,739 | 6,347 | 557 | 494 |
| Calves | " | 568 | 599 | 667 | 48 | 53 |
| Shipments of feeder cattle and calves to seven Corn Belt States 1/ | :Thous. | 2,036 | 1,896 | 2,052 | 89 | 180 |
| Hogs - | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Number slaughtered under Federal inspection | " | 50,398 | 46,520 | 53,897 | 5,831 | 6,778 |
| Average live weight | : Lb. | 232 | 241 | 245 | 240 | 249 |
| Percentage packing sows are of all purchases at seven markets | : Pct. | 11 | 11 | 13 | 6 | 8 |
| Total production under Federal inspection: | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Pork | : Mil. lb. | 6,614 | 6,345 | 7,562 | 776 | 952 |
| Lard 2/ | " | 1,527 | 1,526 | 1,724 | 203 | 218 |
| Average yield per hog: | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Pork | : Lb. | 131.6 | 136.8 | 140.6 | 133.3 | 140.8 |
| Lard 2/ | " | 30.4 | 32.9 | 32.1 | 35.0 | 32.2 |
| Storage stocks end of month: | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Pork | : Mil. lb. | --- | --- | --- | 614 | 490 |
| Lard 2/ | " | --- | --- | --- | 209 | 91 |
| Sheep and lambs - | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Number slaughtered under Federal inspection | :Thous. | 17,351 | 18,125 | 21,625 | 1,611 | 2,175 |
| Average live weight | : Lb. | 86 | 88 | 89 | 94 | 91 |
| Total dressed weight | : Mil. lb. | 702 | 750 | 880 | 69 | 88 |
| Shipments of feeder lambs to seven Corn Belt States 1/ | :Thous. | 3,330 | 3,203 | 3,527 | 116 | 175 |
| Total dressed weight of live stock slaughtered under Federal inspection | : Mil. lb. | 14,951 | 15,523 | 17,821 | 1,728 | 1,887 |

1/ Total shipments direct and from public stockyards to Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska.

2/ Including rendered pork fat.

3/ Preliminary.

Livestock prices per 100 pounds (except where noted), by species,
January 1943, with comparisons.

| Item | 1942 | January | | | 1942 | 1943 |
|--|------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | annual: 1931-40 ^a | 1941 | 1942 | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. |
| | average: average | Dol. | Dol. | Dol. | Dol. | Dol. |
| | | | | | | |
| Cattle and calves - | | | | | | |
| Beef steers sold out of first hands at Chicago: | | | | | | |
| Choice and Prime | 15.19 | 10.62 | 14.19 | 13.63 | 16.77 | 16.09 |
| Good | 13.90 | 8.80 | 12.21 | 12.54 | 15.40 | 14.90 |
| Medium | 12.22 | 7.32 | 10.13 | 11.02 | 13.44 | 13.30 |
| Common | 10.40 | 6.09 | 8.34 | 9.39 | 10.67 | 10.37 |
| All grades | 13.79 | 8.35 | 11.90 | 12.60 | 15.30 | 14.85 |
| Good grade cows at Chicago .. | 10.90 | 5.48 | 7.90 | 9.60 | 12.56 | 12.56 |
| Vealers, Good and Choice at Chicago | 14.48 | 9.03 | 12.23 | 14.16 | 14.50 | 14.56 |
| Stocker and feeder steers at Kansas City | 11.75 | 6.49 | 10.16 | 10.57 | 12.62 | 12.24 |
| Average price paid by packers: | | | | | | |
| All cattle | 10.93 | 6.14 | 8.57 | 10.14 | 10.84 | 11.42 |
| Steers | 12.61 | 1/ | 10.64 | 11.66 | 13.73 | 13.37 |
| Calves | 12.07 | 7.27 | 9.62 | 11.67 | 11.66 | 11.97 |
| Hogs - | | | | | | |
| Average market price at Chicago: | | | | | | |
| Barrows and gilts | 13.69 | 1/ | 7.81 | 11.44 | 13.94 | 14.03 |
| Sows | 13.73 | 1/ | 6.81 | 10.53 | 14.03 | 13.84 |
| All purchases | 13.70 | 6.65 | 7.70 | 11.36 | 13.96 | 14.01 |
| Average price paid by packers: | 13.57 | 6.59 | 7.57 | 11.13 | 13.66 | 13.36 |
| Average price No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago 2/ | 83.3 | 60.9 | 63.6 | 81.8 | 80.5 | 89.4 |
| Hog-corn price ratio at Chicago 3/ | 16.4 | 11.3 | 12.1 | 13.9 | 17.3 | 15.7 |
| Sheep and lambs - | | | | | | |
| Slaughter lambs, Good and Choice grade at Chicago .. | 13.89 | 8.48 | 10.28 | 12.47 | 14.74 | 15.47 |
| Feeding lambs, Good and Choice grade at Omaha | 12.02 | 7.41 | 9.25 | 11.35 | 12.35 | 13.12 |
| Ewes, Good and Choice grade at Chicago | 6.60 | 3.99 | 5.38 | 6.24 | 6.12 | 7.69 |
| Average price paid by packers: | | | | | | |
| for sheep and lambs | 11.80 | 7.94 | 9.54 | 11.42 | 11.64 | 12.61 |
| Index retail meat prices 4/ .. | 108.3 | 77.9 | 86.3 | 100.1 | 113.4 | 114.5 |
| Index income of industrial workers 5/ | 131 | 69 | 109 | 153 | 207 | 212 |

1/ Not available.

2/ Cents per bushel.

3/ Number of bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

4/ Bureau of Labor Statistics, converted to 1924-29 base.

5/ Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1924-29 = 100.

Wool: Mill consumption and machine activity, United States,
selected periods, 1940-42

| Item | Aggregate | | | Weekly average | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | Dec. | Nov. | Dec. |
| | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1941 1/ | 1942 2/ | 1942 2/ |
| Mill consumption | | | | | | |
| (revised basis) 4/ | | | | | | |
| Grease basis 5/- | | | | | | |
| Apparel wool | 639,618 | 967,685 | 1,056,438 | 21,174 | 21,521 | 21,837 |
| Domestic | 486,756 | 493,934 | 530,217 | 12,273 | 13,038 | 12,971 |
| Foreign | | | | | | |
| (duty paid) | 152,862 | 473,751 | 526,221 | 8,901 | 8,483 | 8,866 |
| Carpet wool - | | | | | | |
| Foreign | | | | | | |
| (duty free) | 138,746 | 199,453 | 59,743 | 4,074 | 1,036 | 1,101 |
| Scoured basis - | | | | | | |
| Apparel wool | 309,163 | 509,014 | 560,418 | 10,924 | 11,097 | 11,364 |
| Carpet wool | 98,708 | 138,917 | 43,137 | 2,927 | 759 | 802 |
| Weekly average in hours | | | | | | |
| Machine activity | | | | | | |
| Hours per available | | | | | | |
| machine - | | | | | | |
| Worsted combs | 55.1 | 86.7 | 88.8 | 93.2 | 80.2 | 79.3 |
| Bradford | 43.5 | 74.9 | 75.8 | 84.9 | 66.2 | 66.6 |
| French | 79.4 | 110.6 | 113.7 | 109.3 | 106.8 | 103.4 |
| Worsted spindles | 37.7 | 61.0 | 58.9 | 66.4 | 59.2 | 59.0 |
| Woolen spindles | 43.2 | 63.8 | 74.5 | 67.4 | 74.9 | 75.5 |
| Worsted and | | | | | | |
| woolen looms - | | | | | | |
| Broad | 39.0 | 61.4 | 70.7 | 69.4 | 67.9 | 69.6 |
| Narrow | 13.6 | 31.7 | 34.2 | 31.6 | 32.7 | 30.6 |
| Carpet and rug | | | | | | |
| looms - | | | | | | |
| Broad | 37.9 | 50.8 | 40.8 | 50.3 | 37.5 | 36.1 |
| Narrow | 21.9 | 30.8 | 22.5 | 29.5 | 18.8 | 18.7 |

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ 51 weeks ended December 26, not strictly comparable with totals for 1940 and 1941

2/ 4-week period.

3/ Revised.

4/ New basis adopted by the Bureau of the Census in January 1942. Apparel wool includes all domestic wools and all duty paid foreign wools. Carpet wool includes only foreign wools entered free of duty for the manufacture of floor covering, press cloth, knit or felt boots or lumbermen's socks. In this table data for 1940 and 1941 have been adjusted to the new basis.

5/ Total of shorn and pulled wool. Pulled wool, grease basis, is in condition received from pulleries and is mostly washed.

Prices per pound of wool, and other textile raw materials in
the United States, selected periods, 1940-43

| Item | Average | | | 1942 | | 1943 | |
|------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | Jan. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. |
| | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents | Cents |
| Boston market - | | | | | | | |
| Territory, scoured basis - | | | | | | | |
| 64s, 70s, 80s (fine) staple | | | | | | | |
| combing..... | 96.3 | 108.8 | 119.1 | 116.0 | 119.0 | 119.0 | 119.0 |
| 56s (3/8 blood) combing | 79.7 | 91.2 | 102.6 | 97.0 | 103.5 | 103.5 | 103.5 |
| 46s (low 1/4 blood) | 76.1 | 82.3 | 90.7 | 86.5 | 91.5 | 92.6 | 94.0 |
| Bright fleece, greasy - | | | | | | | |
| 64s, 70s, 80s (fine) delaine | 38.0 | 43.1 | 47.2 | 45.5 | 47.0 | 47.0 | 47.0 |
| 56s (3/8 blood) combing | 41.2 | 46.8 | 51.8 | 51.5 | 54.0 | 53.0 | 53.0 |
| 46s (low 1/4 blood) | 41.0 | 46.5 | 49.8 | 50.0 | 49.5 | 49.5 | 51.5 |
| Foreign wool - in bond | | | | | | | |
| at Boston 1/ - | | | | | | | |
| Sydney - scoured basis - | | | | | | | |
| 64s, 70s, good combing | 67.9 | 72.7 | 78.1 | 75.5 | 79.0 | 79.0 | 76.5 |
| Cape - scoured basis - | | | | | | | |
| 12 months, comting | 62.9 | 70.9 | 75.6 | 73.0 | 76.5 | 76.5 | 75.5 |
| Montevideo - grease basis - | | | | | | | |
| Merinos (60-64s) | 31.2 | 40.4 | 43.0 | 43.6 | 43.0 | 43.0 | 39.5 |
| 1s (56s) | 32.4 | 38.6 | 42.5 | 45.4 | 42.2 | 42.2 | 39.5 |
| Prices received by farmers, | | | | | | | |
| grease basis, 15th of month | 28.3 | 35.5 | 2/ | 37.1 | 39.7 | 39.7 | 32.5 |
| Textile fibers: | | | | | | | |
| Wool, territory fine staple 3/ | 96.3 | 108.8 | 119.1 | 116.0 | 119.0 | 119.0 | 119.0 |
| Cotton, 15/16" Middling 4/ | 10.17 | 13.92 | 19.3 | 19.0 | 19.3 | 19.7 | 20.4 |
| Rayon yarn, 150 denier 5/ | 53.0 | 53.6 | 55.0 | 55.0 | 55.0 | 55.0 | 55.0 |
| Rayon staple fiber 6/ - | | | | | | | |
| Viscose 1-1/2 denier | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| Acetate 5 denier | 43.0 | 43.0 | 43.0 | 43.0 | 43.0 | 43.0 | 43.0 |

Compiled from reports of the Food Distribution Administration except as otherwise noted.

1/ Before payment of duty. Compiled from the Boston Commercial Bulletin.

2/ Not available.

3/ Scoured basis, Boston market.

4/ Average at 10 markets.

5/ Domestic yarn, first quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

6/ F.o.b. producing plants, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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